

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 04908 061108Z

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 EB-11 SS-20 DRC-01 RSC-01 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7592

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4908

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY SIMON'S MID EAST TRIP

REF: STATE 145065

1. RECOMMEND AGAINST SECRETARY SIMON'S BRINGING AN IRS OFFICIAL OR TAX SPECIALIST IN HIS PARTY. WHILE THERE IS NO REASON WHY SECRETARY SHOULD NOT DISCUSS EGYPTIAN TAX STRUCTURE WITH EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS, PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT HAS WITH HIM AN IRS OFFICIAL OR TAX SPECIALIST ISBOUND TO AROUSE EGYPTIAN PUBLIC CONCERN THAT WE PLAN TO PRESS ON GOE TO INCREASE ITS TAXES. SUCH AN IMPRESSION, EVEN IF WRONG, COULD BE SEIZED UPON BY SADAT'S CRITICS AT HOME AND ABROAD TO EMBARRASS HIM AND COULD HURT POSITIVE IMAGE OF SIMON MISSION THAT WE WANT TO GENERATE.

2. DEPENDING UPON HOW TALKS PROCEED, SECRETARY MIGHT OF COURSE OFFER TO SEND A TAX SPECIALIST AT A LATER DATE TO STUDY EGYPTIAN TAX STRUCTURE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS. THIS SHOULD BE DONE WITHOUT FANFARE.
EILTS

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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